Church Life

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The First Baptist Church of Chicago

Seventy Years of History: 1833-1903

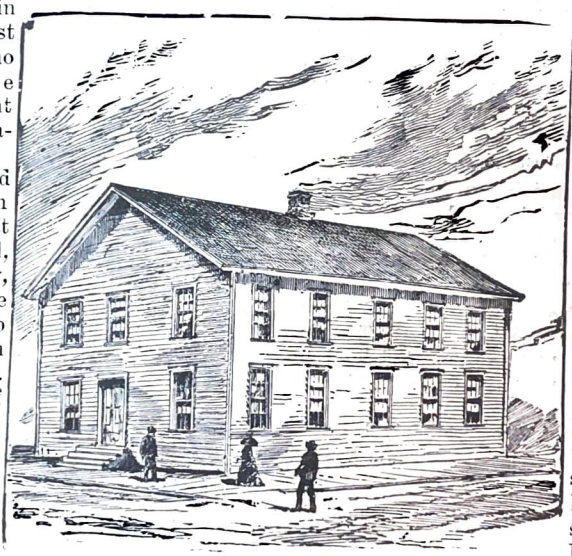
Edward Goodman

Chicago Baptist history may be regarded as beginning in the spring of 1833, when John Taylor Temple, M. D., arrived in Chicago from Washington, D. C. There are, however, two references to Baptists before this date, that to Mrs. Rebecca Heald, a Baptist and the first Protestant who came to Chicago in 1811, and that to Isaac McCoy in 1825, a Baptist minister who preached the first Protestant sermon in Chicago.

Dr. Temple and family lived on a plantation at Garland Hill, Hanover County, Virginia. This he sold and took up his residence in Washington, D. C. On account of threatened lung trouble he decided to make a radical change of location and so came to Chicago. Mrs. Temple, who was a daughter of the celebrated Rev. Dr. William Stoughton followed her husband. On her way she stopped with friends in Philadelphia and Cincinnati, and visited with her family and at Niles, Mich., met Dr. Temple who had made all arrangements for their journey to Chicago.

A man with a new wagon and a fine team of horses had been hired by Dr. Temple. They were well supplied with provisions and camped two nights on the way. The wolves were howling around them, but were kept away by the camp-fire which burned all night.

On arriving in Chicago in the evening of the early summer of 1833, they were soon settled in the old log hut at the end of Wattle's Tavern. The Indians were around in numbers. Mrs. Temple who had lived in luxury in Washington, found it hard to accept the primitive accommodations, and although she was in mortal fear of the Indians, she was brave. Her husband's health was the first consideration with her. Before the summer was over Dr. Temple with lumber from Green Bay, erected a story and half house and they were made glad by having a nice little home of their own. Fort Dearborn at this time having a garrison of some 100 men was a picket enclosure, with a block-house inside the enclosure, having apertures for lookouts on three sides. Major Wilcox and Captain Baley were in command.



The First Meeting House, erected September, 1833

On account of danger from the Indians it was necessary at times for Dr. Temple's family and others to take refuge in the fort.

Dr. Temple was the father of the late Mrs. Thomas Hoyne, the mother of one of the esteemed members of the church, Mrs. Lizzie Hoyne Willians.

The American Baptist Home Mission Society was organized in New York in 1832. Dr. Temple was a decided Baptist and an earnest Christian. He secured the the appointment by the Society of Rev. Allen B. Freeman as missionary for Northern Illinois, with Chicago as his headquarters. The First Church from the beginning and in the succeeding years, was greatly indebted to the fostering care of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, so well and ably represented for many years by one of our members, the late Rev. Dr. William M. Haigh, and at the present time by Dr. Judson B. Thomas.

Dr. Temple in a letter to Dr. Going, the Secretary of the Society offered to become "responsible for $200 per annum for the support of a young man of first rate talent, whose whole soul is in the cause of Christ, who may be sent out immediately." He added, "As I understand the case there is no church there, and but few inhabitants, but they are rapidly increasing and we want to exhibit one phenomenon to show that the Baptists for once get up as early as their neighbors." And so Mr. Freeman was commissioned for Chicago, with the prophetic benediction, "The Lord of Abraham bless thee, brother, and make thee a blessing."

Before Mr. Freeman came to Chicago, he wrote the following letter to Dr. Temple, for a copy of which we are indebted to Mrs. Williams, who has in her hands the original.

East Bloomfield, July 3, 1833.

DR. JOHN T. TEMPLE.

Dear Sir: In a letter lately received from Dr. Going, the Cor. Sec. of the A. B. H. Miss Soc. I have the following information. A letter not long since addressed by you to the Rev. C. G. Sommers was laid before the board of that Society, containing a statement of the situation and destitution of Chicago, and requesting that a young man of certain very necessary qualifications be sent thither forthwith.

The board after some deliberation concluded to propose to me an appointment to Chicago (in consequence of your presentation of its pressing demand) instead of Chillicothe, Ohio, where I was about to go under their direction.

I write you immediately upon concluding to accept their proposal that I may know if you please all about Chicago and also to give you a brief of my circumstances. Should there arise no providential objection I shall after hearing from you pretty fully the condition and prospects of the place deem it my duty to proceed without delay. On the reception of this will you write immediately and give information on such questions as follow. What is the number of inhabitants in Chicago and what is their origin, American or European if American from what section of the States, principally? What is their moral character? Are there any churches of any denomonation there, if so how strong? How many Baptists are there? What is the state of education? Would there be a prospect of a fair high school for some Baptist brother well qualified who could assist in Sabbath School and Bible class instruction? What is the health of the place, what the quality of its waters? What is the face of the country and what its soil around Chicago? What inducements can you hold out to Baptist families, farmers or mechanics to settle in the vicinity? Have you any communication with Detroit other than by water or is there a land passage from Detroit to St. Joseph? What will be the probable fare on the steamboats from Detroit to Chicago? How much per hundred or per barrel for freight? On these points you will very much oblige by giving me information and on such others as you may deem necessary.

As to my circumstances I am possessed of no property except in my books, a collection of Latin, Greek and Hebrew classics to which I have been giving my attention, principally, for the last six years in connection with other studies in view of the ministry. The last four years I have spent in the institution at Hamilton which I have just left at the last Commencement, in view of going immediately to Chillicothe according to arrangement made with Dr. Going at Hamilton. I have just married and am now waiting a week only for my wife to complete her preparations for the journey. We are with her friends in East Bloomfield, Ontario County, whence we expect to go in about six days to Guilford, Medinah County, Ohio, where I wish you to direct your reply to this and where I shall wait to receive it before I start for Chicago. I have connections in Guilford and am advised by Dr. Going to remain there and preach till I hear from you. You will therefore please to write very soon on the reception of this that I may know what to expect and what to do.

I was not informed, sir, whether you are a professed disciple of Jesus and if so whether you are a Baptist. But permit me to ask concluding you to be a Baptist member, Dear Brother, pray that if I am directed by God's kind providence to your town I may come in the "fullness of the blessing of the gospel of peace," determined to know nothing among you save Jesus Christ crucified and that I may be an instrument in the hand of the Lord in the salvation of many precious souls, and may the blessings of the God of Abraham be yours.

With Christian affection,
Yours, A. B. Freeman.

Any advice you may have to give concerning my passage or your opinion upon the propriety of carrying household furniture, or on any subject written in this sheet (for it is dispatched in haste) will be very gratefully received. Sir, Respectfully, A. B. F.

Dr. Temple's answer to this letter was favorable and Mr. Freeman without delay responded by starting on his way to the "Far West."

Mr. Freeman was a graduate of Hamilton Theological Seminary at Hamilton, N.

Y., and he was in that town when Dr. Going first conferred with him. He departed from New York on his long western journey, visiting his father in Ohio, and he was joined by his wife at Guilford in Northern Ohio. On the way he preached at Buffalo, Detroit and St. Joseph, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Freeman arrived in Chicago Aug. 15, 1833, and were immediately taken care of by Dr. Temple in his own house where they remained for seven months. Dr. Temple was a "pillar" in the fullest sense. Mr. Freeman in a letter to Dr. Going, wrote that Dr. Temple was "parsonage, salary and supply," for he gave him a home, furnished him with needed funds, and doubtless took his place to some extent when he was absent itinerating in the regions beyond.

Soon after his arrival Mr. Freeman discovered some twenty Baptists. A subscription headed by Dr. Temple was at once circulated for a meeting house, and $300 was secured, which was afterwards increased to $450. The next week after Mr. Freeman's arrival carpenters were at work on a frame building, which was completed before the end of September at a cost of $600. It was located on the corner of South Water and Franklin streets, thirty feet long and fifteen feet wide, a two story building, the lower story seating 100 persons was used for church services, and the upper floor for Sunday School and day school.

On Oct. 12, a meeting of the Baptists of Chicago was called, with a view to the formation of a church. There were nine persons present. Dr. Temple was absent in New York at this time. The meeting was adjourned for one week and on October 19, 1833 the First Baptist Church of Chicago was fully organized in the lower story of the meeting house with fifteen members. The names of the constituent members were:—Rev. Allen B. Freeman, Hannah C. Freeman, Samuel Jackson, Lucinda Jackson, J. K. Sargent, Peter Worden, Martin D Harmon, Samantha Harmon, Peter Moore, Nathaniel Carpenter, Abel E. Carpenter, Eben Crane, Betsy Crane, Willard Jones and Susannah Rice, Martin D. Harmon was chosen deacon and Peter Worden, Clerk.

On January 12, 1834, Mr. Freeman was formally chosen pastor, and Mrs. Dr. Temple was the first person baptized by him in Lake Michigan near the foot of Randolph street. In 1834 the Sunday School was organized, and during the summer Mr. Freeman established a Bible Class in Fort Dearborn and received several soldiers into the church.

On June 19, 1834, Rev. J. E. Ambrose with his wife came to Chicago as a missionary, and co-operated with Mr. Freeman in his great and arduous labors, Mr. Ambrose being stationed at Plainfield. During the year 1834 in addition to his work in Chicago, Mr. Freeman made missionary tours for many miles west and southwest, during which brief period five churches were organized.

About the early part of December Mr. Freeman went to Long Grove, now Pavilion, in Kendall county to recognize a church recently organized by Rev. J. F. Tolman. On his way home his horse died, and he was obliged to walk about thirty miles, carrying his saddle most of the way. The exertion and exposure resulted in his taking a severe cold from which he died in Chicago Dec. 15, 1834, at the age of twenty-seven years. His last words to his young wife were, "Tell my father I died at my post and in my Master's work."

The beloved founder of the First Baptist Church had a heart going out for the salvation of souls, as the first and chief work of a gospel minister and a gospel church. He sought to impress upon the life of the infant church, his own high Christian ideals — a loyalty to Christ, which (as he said in his last written words) declares that "all we have and are is the Lord's and shall be by his assistance really at his call." Mr. Freeman's pleasant face and attractive manner, his devotion, his earnestness, his power in preaching, the influence of his short life, made his name a household word. "Although he had been pastor of the church less than a year, he left a strong body of believers, who deeply mourned his unexpected departure as did many who were not members of the church."

When Mr.Freeman arrived in Chicago he received a hearty Christian welcome from Rev. Jeremiah Porter, the Presbyterian missionary. Very pleasant were the relations between them. They worked together like brethren, worshiped for a time in the Baptist meeting house, one of them occupying the pulpit when the other was absent. When Mr. Freeman died in December 1834 his friend Mr. Porter was there to sympathize with the bereaved wife and friends and officiate at the funeral. The burial of

Mr. Freeman was on the north branch of the river, not far from the Kinzie street bridge. A picket fence was built around the ground by Mr. S. S. Lathrop. Several years afterward the remains were removed to the old cemetery, which is now a part of Lincoln Park. His resting place was lost sight of in the succeeding years, but in connection with the jubilee services of the church in 1883, a tablet to his memory was placed in the vestibule of the church at the northwest corner, with the following inscription:

In Memory
of
Allen B. Freeman
Born 1806
Founded this Church
October 19, 1833
Chosen First Pastor
Jan. 12, 1834
Died December 15, 1834
"I die at my post and in my Master's work."

Mention has been made of Mrs. Rebecca Heald, the first Baptist who came to Chicago in 1811. Further reference to her will be of interest. Miss Wells (her maiden name) was baptized when young by Elder Jeremiah Vardeman in Louisville, Kentucky in 1806. Her father, Col. Samuel Wells, was a very promient man, having distinguished himself as Major of Mounted Volunteers as early as 1793, and Gen. Harrison commended him for his gallantry at the head of his regiment at the battle of Tippecanoe in 1811. Miss Wells was married to Captain Nathan Heald, May 23, 1811 in Louisville, Ky. They left at once for Chicago, riding all the way on horse back through a country infested with the warriors of the Prophet and Tecumseh. The battle of Tippecanoe took place the seventh of the following November. Mrs. Heald rode the first thorough-bred English horse that ever came to Chicago. To that horse she attributed the preservation of her life as she escaped upon it when driven from Fort Dearborn at the time of the Indian Massacre Aug. 15, 1812 near the present corner of Eighteenth St. and Prairie Ave. Capt. Heald was the second commandant at Fort Dearborn, the first having been Capt. John Whistler. "Mrs. Heald was a zealous and devoted Christian. She lived, walked and worked by faith, and died in the triumph thereof, April 23. 1857." (To be continued.)

Douglass Improvement Association

A large and enthusiastic gathering of residents of the district bounded by 31st and 35th streets, Michigan avenue and the Lake, assembled Tuesday evening, March 1 at the South Park M. E. Church, to form the Douglass Improvement Association.

Alderman Foreman, acting as chairman stated the purpose of the meeting and the necessity for the association. He explained the condition of the street cleaning fund and also said that a number of the streets in the district would be paved with asphalt during the summer.

Mr. E. C. Wentworth, President of the South Central Improvement Association whose district lies north of 31st St., spoke of its work. That Association collects $1.00 per month or more and fifty or more subscribers on a given street entitle it to a man with a uniform who keeps it clean, picks up paper, etc., and once a week flushes the street thoroughly. The Association has also secured prompt repairs to poor pavements, choked sewers and faulty fire-plugs. A desire for better things has brought them about.

Mr. A. H. Nelson, Superintendent of the South Park Improvement Association also described the work of his Association, whose motto is: "Our homes are not merely the houses that we sleep in; they are the cities in which we live." In Dec. 1901 that Association started with 130 subscribers who agreed to pay a total of $160. a month. There are now 360 subscribers paying $600 a month. They have a form of contract which reads that for a specified sum the Association guarantees proper garbage collection, street and alley cleaning, clearing snow from sidewalks with snow-plow and necessary street sprinkling. They have abolished the bill-posting nuisance.

Dr. de Blois made a stirring speech declaring his sympathy with the Association and his purpose to help build it up. Alderman Jackson, a member of the Finance Committee of the City Council also spoke.

explaining why matters are in such a bad way. He also announced that there was about to be started a similar Association south of 35th street.

Resolutions, form of organization and by-laws were unanimously adopted and fifteen men and ten women were elected as directors. The by-laws and the names of the directors will be printed if possible in the next issue.

Subscription blanks were circulated and $400 was pledged largely in sums of $1.00 per month. By a thorough canvass of the entire district, the officers hope to greatly increase this fund.

The Douglass Improvement Association is organized. Its success is assured. It has as officers men and women who, without pay will give their loyal and self-sacrificing services to secure a careful and economical management of the Association. It has also the support of the best men and women in the district.

Talk it over with your neighbor.

The Church at Work

Sunday School

R. J. Pickett, Dept. Editor

The following committee chairmen have been appointed for the current year:

Easter Sunday
Mrs. Clifford Williams, Intermediate Dept
Miss Beatrice Little, Primary Dept
Children's Day ..... Mrs. H. F. Googins
Picnic ..... Robert J. Pickett
Rally Day ..... Clifford Gaylord
Thanksgiving
Mrs. J. S. McCullough, Intermediate Dept
Mrs. S. C. King, Primary Dept.
Christmas
Mrs. C. H. Marshall, Intermediate Dept.
Miss Edith Ahrens, Primary Dept.
Visiting .....Rev. F. C. W. Parker
Poor and Needy ..... Mrs. Gussie Elkin
Social ..... Miss Isabel Wilken

Miss Jeannette Stedman has been obliged to resign her position as a teacher in our school because of her ill health and has returned to her home in Champaign. We are indeed sorry to lose so efficient and willing a worker, and sincerely hope her return to health will be rapid and that she will again be seen among our working forces.

The Onward Class

This is the latest organization to take its place among the multiplying agencies for the extension of our work. Almost without our knowing it, the Onward Class has come into being. Some years ago Cassius J. Williamson was given charge of a class of boys. His class prospered until the boys reached the unsettled age when they drift away. The lack of something to hold them over this period was keenly felt, and under Mr. Williamson's careful guidance the young fellows between the "boy" and "man" age have, following the good examples of the other departments of our church life, effected this organization. Their one aim is to conduct a Bible class and incidentally to promote the social mental, physical as well as moral and spiritual welfare of the members.

The sole qualifications for membership are that the youthful applicant must be at least fifteen years of age and must wear long trousers—winter wearing apparel being taken as the standard. In other words, no youth will be debarred because he wears bicycle, golf or even base ball trousers in the summer. Surely a nice sense of justice has been here manifested by the organizers of the class.

The class meets every Sunday morning for Bible study in its own class room, that formerly occupied by the Men's League. Two evenings a month the members meet at the church for entertainment, etc.

The officers elected for the term Jan. 1st to July 1st, 1804, are:

President, Robert Leland
Vice President, James Ransom
Secretary, Fred Wolters
Treasurer, Walter Leland
Ass't Treasurer, William Landers
Chairmen of Committees:
Entertainment, Temple Williams
Membership, William Landers
Athletics, Samuel Lingle

The teacher of the Class has been Mr. S. T. Allen, but Mr. Embree recently called as assistant pastor to have charge of Raymond Mission, will become the teacher of this most important class on March 20th.

He is well qualified for this task. In addition to his large natural gifts, he has been closely in touch with what is probably the most successful class of this kind in existence, that taught by Dr. Chandler in the Belden Avenue Baptist Church, which at present has upwards of eighty members.

It is confidently hoped that the Onward Class of the First Church will be quite as large and effective in the near future. All friends of the Bible School can help by putting the officers of the Class or school in touch with those of the proper age to become members. If in thinking of a particular individual you cannot decide whether to call him "boy" or "young man" he is of just the age for the Onward Class.. Please hand the names and addresses to us at once. Be assured where possible there will be secured as members of the class for the member of this organization get what they go after.

Convention at Jerusalem

Dr. and Mrs. Ketman will attend the World's Fourth Sunday School Convention, which is to be held at Jerusalem April 18th, 19th and 20th. Dr. Ketman is one of the delegates elected by the convention last year at Taylorville to represent Illinois, the best Sunday School state in the Union.

The steamer Grosser Kurfurst chartered from the North German Lloyd for the trip will be watched with interest by the Sunday School host of this hemisphere. As we hear of its progress we will remember that we are well represented and may expect stimulating and glowing reports when our friends return.

Christian Endeavor

Miss E. M. Pickett, Dept. Editor

This Society has been regularly at its post on Friday evenings, shedding abroad its light and welcoming all who come to enjoy the blessings of its prayer meetings. Visitors are frequent, but we should be glad to welcome many more. Some of our members have added much to the attractiveness of the meetings by well rendered musical selections. We hope to hear others also. We are glad to welcome two new members this month, Miss Marie Kilbourne and Miss Eva Burchett.

The missionary meeting was thoroughly interesting. We are very grateful to Mrs. McFadden for her assistance with the program. Africa, "The Dark Continent," is being brightened by many beacon lights of missionary enterprise. The program with the help of the map gave a comprehensive view of the whole continent.

Short papers telling of religious conditions, and missionary work in several states and provinces in the coast of Africa, were read by members. Brief sketches of the lives of the three greatest men connected with the opening of this continent were also read: Robert Moffat, David Livingstone and Henry M. Stanley. With the aid of a map Mrs. McFadden gave a most interesting account of the Baptist work in the Congo Free State.

We will hold a special Easter service Friday evening, April first. "The Lord is risen." "He is risen indeed."

A bright red paper heart with its cordial invitation, announced to us a "Valentine Social" for Tuesday evening, February 16. The parlors were appropriately decorated and games new and old, brain-racking and skill-testing were the source of much fun and sociability. We hope that we may soon have another such enjoyable evening.

"Sunshine Band"

We are sorry that these little people must again lose their leader when Mrs. Ketman leaves us for her Palestinian trip. Will same one volunteer to take up this very interesting work?

Junior Society

A Junior Rally was held at the Immanuel Presbyterian Church Sunday, Feb. 28. Our Juniors gave up their meeting and attended, twenty-four strong. They were disappointed not to receive the banner which went to the Friends Church Society who had an attendance of all members.

Intermediate Society

This Society enjoyed a very interesting talk about Japan by Mrs. Googins at the missionary meeting, February 20th. A letter from Mrs. Fisher told of a New Year's celebration given to three thousand poor children of that country. There is in the Society a great opportunity for work for the Master. The young Christians of our church would find these meetings a great help.

Ladies' Benevolent Society

Mrs. W. Morava, Dept. Editor

The ladies of the Society realize that the weeks are rapidly passing and are heroicly working to accomplish much in the

Master's name. The meetings on both February 5th and February 19th were large and enthusiastic. Mrs. Perkins added her name to the list of members. Miss Clara Stowell was informally appointed to serve on the Table Committee.

Embroidery Tea

On February 17th Mrs. Lingle and Mrs. Pienkowsky entertained the ladies at an Embroidery Tea. Mrs. Pienkowsky proved a very charming young hostess, and arranged as the chief feature of the afternoon a chorus of infant voices. These amateur entertainers without the encouragement of encores or the hope of securing a prize made repeated and effective efforts to make themselves heard and appreciated.

Baptist Hospital Day

On February 26th fifty ladies of the Society manifested their zeal by meeting at the Baptist Hospital to sew. The large amount of work accomplished told emphatically of their interest in the cause and it is safe to predict that this good work will draw a still larger number when we are again requested to "give the Hospital a day."

Women's Mission Circle

Mrs. S. B. Lingle, Dept. Editor

About sixty ladies were present at the annual meeting of the Mission Circle, held on February twelfth. After the reports, Mrs. F. C. W. Parker read an excellent paper on Alaska. A quickly sketched map on the blackboad gave a clear idea of the geography of the country as well as its vast extent and possibilities.

The strange customs of the people and the religion which is fetishism were described and the points at which Christian work has been attempted located. Mrs. Lindmar gave an account of the school in St. Lawrence Island, a point within the arctic circle, started by Mr. and Mrs. Gamble in 1894. A plea for Christian help for these ignorant people was read by Mrs. Morava in the form of a letter from an Alaskan girl, who had known something of the gospel and the civilization it brings.

After the program, a social hour was much enjoyed. Mrs. Chandler presided over this feature of the afternoon, assisted by Mrs. Lindman and Mrs. Platt P. Gibbs.

A picturesque chocolate girl added to the charm of the afternoon.

It was a pleasure to greet our sister, Miss Isabelle Harvey on the occasion of the annual meeting. She has we think the honor of being the oldest member of our church having passed her nintieth year, but she enjoyed the meeting as well as the youngest of us.

The report from the Baby Band and Little Helpers Societies, showed that the little ones had contributed $9.20, $5.10 for foreign missions, and $4.10 for home missions.

Our Missionary Library is a valuable help to all who wish intelligence on these subjects. It is composed of 152 volumes of good missionary books—some valuable works now out of print, other recent publications, from the best writers on these subjects. Among them are many charming biographies. Mrs. Googins is Librarian and would be glad to circulate these books among all desiring to use them.

Miss E. Pickett's report of the Chinese work showed an enrollment of one hundred and forty-eight with an average attendance of between seventy and eighty. Two new Chinese Sunday Schools have been established during the year, making four Chinese Baptist Sunday Schools in the city. Four have been baptized into the fellowship of our church during the year, making forty-eight received by baptism since 1888 when the work was started, eighteen having been received by letter. Street preaching was conducted every Sunday evening last summer at which a large number heard the Gospel.

The following officers and heads of committees were chosen at the annual meeting of the Circle:

Mrs. J. F. Gillett, President
Mrs. H. F. Googins, First Vice President
Mrs. F. C. W. Parker, Second Vice Pres.
Mrs. S. B. Lingle, Secretary
Mrs. Wm. Raymond, Treasurer
Program Committee
Home Missions: Mrs. McFadden, Mrs. Googins, Mrs. Marshall.
Foreign Missions: Mrs. Parker, Mrs. de Blois, Mrs. McCullough, Mrs. Lingle
Box Committee, Mrs. Anna Cochrane
Music Committee, Mrs. Marshall
Reception Committee, Mrs. Whitmore
Social Committee, Mrs. H. H. Chandler

The Circle has decided to follow the line of study suggested by Rex Christus, a widely used outline study of China. The first program in the series will be presented at the March meeting, upon the first chapter,

"China a self-centered empire." Already a dozen of our members have secured copies of Rex Christus that they may be prepared both to take part themselves and also to enjoy the more fully the talks and papers of others.

It has been determined also to alternate the subjects of foreign and home missions so at the April meeting the topic of immigration will be considered in all its different phases, the subject of China being continued in May.

The interdenominational prayer meeting held by the Women's Home Mission Board on February 22 was a profitable one. Such union gatherings are broadening and inspiring. It would be well if we could oftener enjoy them.

Amoret Henson Guild

Miss B. M. Harvey, Dept. Editor

The members of the Guild surely have cause to feel gratified by the success of their first entertainment, given Thursday evening, February twenty-fifth. The program was excellent in every feature—Gibson pictures, Reveries of a Bachelor and Glee Club.

For the past two months the girls have been working to give an entertainment attractive enough to induce people to come and to interest them after they came, but the real object was to procure funds sufficient to carry on the good work of the Guild upon a broader plane than heretofore —particularly the Glee Club. The people came and the goodly number was an inspiration to the Guild. The hearty applause proved their interest, and many remarks of appreciation have since been made. The funds procured were all we could have hoped for.

The Guild Glee Club is now assured as a permanent part of our work, and we can invite girls to join without hesitancy. As the Club sings for you from time to time it will try to show its appreciation of your support upon the evenings of its debut.

Arrangements were excellent and showed much planning and foresight. The Guild members wish to thank most heartily Miss Edith Ahrens, Chairman of the Entertainment Committee and Mrs. Phillips, who had entire charge of the posing, as well as the girls who are not members of the Guild and the men who so kindly lent their aid in making the tableaux a success. We feel especially indebted to Mr. Pierce. The success of the "Reveries of a Bachelor," was due quite as much to his excellent impersonation of the bachelor, as to the girls who were the visible spirits of his dreams. We also noticed that Messrs. Tomlinson, Pickett and Rhenisch were most efficient workers behind the scenes, and their timely aid is much appreciated.

At the February meeting of the Guild, it was delightful to see the girls working earnestly in the basket-weaving and sewing classes, in spite of the unusual disturbance due to practice for the entertainment.

While much of our energy has been expended on preparation for the entertainment the work of the Guild has not been neglected. The Visiting Committee has been calling on young women who it is hoped may become interested in the Guild and the membership has grown steadily.

The Guild Bible Class has made one five-dollar subscription to the Baptist Missionary Children's Home in Morgan Park and another to the Baptist Orphanage—during February. This money is taken from the class treasury which is entirely separate from that of the Guild.

Our organization is in good working condition and we are all anxious to make the most of the opportunities that may be offered in our particular sphere of work during the coming months.

We are always very glad to see the young women of our congregation at our meetings the last Monday of each month, where they will always be given a hearty welcome and will, we are sure, enjoy the spirit of good fellowship that is always prevalent on these occasions.

Men's League

C. M. Clarke, Dept. Editor

Dr. de Blois delighted us on Feb. 1, when he delivered his illustrated lecture, "Through Ireland on a Bicycle." A large audience greatly enjoyed the pictured beauties of the Emerald Isle and the charming description of the lecturer. The underlying purpose of the lecture—to secure funds for the work of the League—was realized in an appreciable manner.

On Feb. 15, Prof. Albion Small, of the University gave a most informing talk upon "Our relations with Germany," based upon his long term of residence in that country. It is to be regretted that the storm prevented so many from enjoying this evening.

We believe that our men should more fully appreciate the value of the League, as a means of social fellowship and instruction and also as a means of reaching men. Let each do his part to make the meetings successful and to increase the attendance!

The Bible Class

This department of our work has worked against heavy odds. The great difficulty is that the church services do not close so that the Class can meet at its hour, 12:30 o'clock. Not once has the Class met on time and several Sundays the prolonged church services have prevented its meeting. The success of the Class demands that this difficulty be removed or the hour changed.

Our teacher, Deacon Mallory, is working hard to make the Class interesting and instructive. May we take a presonal interest in the Class and seek to increase the attendance from fifteen to the hundred or more who should come.

Young Ladies' Missionary Society

Miss E. G. Gale, Dept. Editor

The first February meeting of the Society was held at the home of Miss Leila Ahrens, 5218 Vernon avenue. The girls began their work for the novelty sale, which they expect to give soon.

On February sixth, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Sawyer, the Society took luncheon at the Chicago Baptist Hospital. The morning was spent in sewing for the Hospital. After luncheon Mrs. Sawyer showed the grils through the institution. A very enjoyable time was spent.

The Society met at the home of Miss Gertrude Wilken on Tuesday afternoon, February the sixteenth. About fifteen girls were present and the work for the sale was continued.

Boys' Club

A. R. Rhenisch, Dept. Editor

The Club has met weekly with an average attendance of 25. Col. Emery drilled the Military Company on Feb. 6th and 20th—the latter drill being of especial interest as advanced work was given to two squads. Miss Shrigley kindly entertained the boys on Feb. 27 with amusing recitations.

A ping-pong tournament is now exciting considerable interest. A punching bag will be given to the victor.

Frank Burdick has succeeded Edward Irving as chairman of Literature Committee, and John Parker is now Secretary in place of Adrian Webster.

A new plan has been voted that promises good results. Two divisions of the Club, the "Whites" under Capt. Edward Irving and the "Golds" under Capt. Elliott Cathcart are trying to outdo each other in securing new members. They will also vie with each other in some new branches of work now under consideration.

Many visitors have attended the meetings this month. They are always welcome.

Raymond Mission

L. T. Austermell, Dept. Editor

Upon the recommendation of the Mission Committee, the church has called Mr. W. M. Embree to become our Pastor. He will begin his work with us on March 15th. His eminent fitness for this work is pointed out in the "Pastor's Message." His excellent record justifies our expectations of great results from his labors with us.

The evening service Feb. 21, was made most interesting by talks from several student volunteers from the University of Chicago. India was the subject and Rev. W. E. Hopkins, a missionary to the Telegus, home on a furlough, presided. The sad condition of the tens of thousands of child widows was vividly pictured and the other bitter fruits of Hinduism were dwelt upon.

Mrs. Minnick is slowly regaining strength after undergoing a very severe operation. She is still unable to be out but we trust may soon be with us again.

Church Life

Published Monthly by the

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Chicago, Illinois

Editor

FREDERIC C. W. PARKER

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Editorial

We begin in this issue Deacon Goodman's history of our church—the most complete and authentic one that has yet been written. His forty-nine years of membership and his long connection with the Standard, preeminently fit him for this labor of love. Someone has said that history is "His-Story." If the hand of God in some of the world's history seems hidden, certainly this is not true of the history of our church. The story of those seventy years truly reads like "His-Story." May we, like the children of Israel, find in God's past dealings with us, strength for the present and inspiration for the future. May we labor for our much-loved church in the spirit of the dying words of Allen Freeman: "I die at my post, and in my Master's work."

As our Pastor begins a three months series of Sunday evening sermons, we as members should consider afresh our responsibility for these Sunday evening services. If we feel unlike attending for our own sake, let us come for the sake of our Pastor and the many attending strangers. Hundreds of people come to us each Sunday evening; we do not have to wonder how we may go after them. The surest way to secure a welcome at their homes is not by a census but by a hearty welcome when they come to our church. Attend the Sunday evening service, greet some stranger, invite that one to the after meeting, talk about Jesus Christ if possible, inquire the name and address, call yourself the next week, give the name to the Assistant Pastor so that others may call—this is a very simple but a most practical and effective way to make our church a power unto salvation in the homes of this neighborhood. We need to heed these words: "The church was founded by Christ as his great instrument in saving the world and its great purpose should be to reach men and save them. Teach the church that it has a commission from the Lord Jesus Christ. Teach it that unless it puts forth every effort to reach men with the gospel it cannot retain that commission, and it will learn that it must pay attention to the Sunday evening service; for with this definition at its heart and with its spirit kindled with what it means it will soon find that the Sabbath evening is the time of all others when the people can and must be reached."

The Pastor's Message

There were many encouraging events and happenings in connection with the life and work of our church during the month of February. The chief amongst these was the election of Mr. W. M. Embree as Assistant Pastor in charge of Raymond Mission. Mr. Embree "came and saw and conquered." After he had talked with the people and preached to them they felt sure that the Lord had sent him—and we all believe He did. The call of the church was unanimous and hearty, and our brother will begin his active labors on the field the middle of March.

Mr. Embree is peculiarly well-fitted for this important work. He has both culture and energy. He was Assistant Pastor at Immanuel Church for some time, and in charge of the largest of its "Branches." He has more recently served as the ef-

ficient Assistant Pastor of the Belden Avenue Church, which is accomplishing so large a ministry on the North Side. Let us give him a "First Church Welcome"—I know no better words than these to describe the warmest and friendliest sort of greeting.

I have my suspicions that Mr. Embree not only "conquered;" he also "was conquered." I thought it would be so when I asked him to supply at the Mission for one Sunday. He went, and when I next saw him he was enthusiastic over the people, the work, and the opportunity. Well he might be! Last Saturday the Industrial School had 125 scholars. Next day the Sunday School filled the building, and there were teachers "enough and to spare." The Lord's hand is leading; let us follow!

I have heard a rumor that Superintendent Whitmore is planning a quiet movement by which the Sunday School at the First Church shall have some considerable share in the new Mission Building that we hope to erect before long. It is not always safe to trust rumors, but Deacon Whitmore's plans have a habit of realizing themselves, so, if he really is planning, I warn you to look for results.

Our Wednesday evening prayer meetings have been unusually helpful of late. The February Covenant meeting was one of true spiritual power. The next week we had brave and hopeful reports form half a dozen of our Raymond Mission leaders. One of our deacons said to me that he had learned more about our work at Raymond than he had known in all the years before. The next Wednesday was an old-time experience meeting, and one of our members said afterwards, "We must have another soon." And we will, for those who spoke were speaking from the heart, and the testimonies were rich and glowing with life. Last Wednesday was the Pastor's experience meeting, and he tried to tell some of the lessons he had learned from his calling campaign.

Let us make these mid-week meetings a great power! Here as everywhere it is the person that counts. By taking your part you are helping others. If you cannot speak, sing—with all your might—and if you can neither speak nor sing, come, at least come, and take one of the front seats. Sometimes it requires more grace to occupy a front seat than to make a speech. But resolve this with yourself and with God, that you will do your part to make the prayer meeting a joy and a beendiction in the life of our church.

Your Pastor,

Austen K. de Blois.

The Journal of the Church

H. F. Perkins, Church Clerk

Feb. 1—Monday. "Through Ireland on a Bicycle": an illustrated lecture by Dr. de Blois, auspices of the Men's League.

Feb. 3—Wednesday. Monthly Covenant prayer meeting; topic: "The Bond that Binds." Romans 8:35-39.

Feb. 5—Friday. Christian Endeavor prayer meeting, led by Mrs. Hessler; topic: "Christ for the World and for Me." John 3: 14-21.

Feb. 6—Saturday. Boys' Club with military drill, by Col. Emery.

Feb. 7—Sunday. Sermons by the Pastor, morning: "The Christian in the World," evening: "A Sane Man and a Sound Gospel."

Feb. 9—Tuesday. Monthly meeting of the Deacons.

Feb. 10—Wednesday. Monthly Missionary meeting. The work, the needs and the opportunities of Raymond Mission were presented by the Pastor and several of the workers.

Feb. 11—Thursday. An informal conference of Pastor and Board of Ushers.

Feb. 12—Friday. Annual meeting of the Women's Mission Circle. Reports, election, and papers upon "Alaska." Christian Endeavor prayer meeting led by Miss Marx and Miss Deibert, topic: "What will real friendship do?" 1 Sam. 20:1-23.

Feb. 13—Saturday. Boys' Club.

Feb. 14—Sunday. Sermons by the Pastor. Morning: "Love's Due-bill;" evening, "The Friendship of Jesus."

Feb. 15—Monday. Men's League social. Prof. Albion W. Small of the University of Chicago talked upon "Our Relations with Germany."

Feb. 16—Tuesday. The Christian Endeavor Society held an enjoyable and well-attended Valentine Social.

Feb. 17—Wednesday. Embroidery Tea at the home of Mrs. Pienkowsky, 3408 Vernon Ave., for the benefit of the Ladies' Benevolent Society. Prayer and social service, an experience meeting. Math. 4: 18 and Acts 9:3-6.

Feb. 19—Friday. Meeting of the Ladies' Benevolent Society. Christian Endeavor monthly missionary meeting, led by Miss Helen Pickett, topic: Africa.

Feb. 20—Saturday. Boys' Club with military drill under Col. Emery.

Feb. 21—Sunday. The Pastor preached a special sermon to the Sunday School upon "The Water of Life;" in the evening upon, "The Stars and the Sun."

Feb. 22—Monday. Monthly meeting of the Amoret Henson Guild; classes in sewing, basket weaving and singing.

Feb. 24—Wednesday. Prayer and social service, topic: "The Social Side of Church Life." John 2:1, 2, 11; Luke 10:28, 39.

Feb. 25—Thursday. The Amoret Henson Guild gave a successful entertainment; program—Gibson Pictures, "Reveries of a Bachelor," and selections by the Guild Glee Club.

Feb. 26—Friday. Christian Endeavor prayer meeting led by the Assistant Pastor, topic: "Some good ways of using the Sabbath." Mark. 1:21-34.

Feb. 27—Saturday. Boys' Club entertained by recitations by Miss Shrigley.

Feb. 28—Sunday. At the morning service Prof. Shailer Mathews and Senator Parker spoke in behalf of a new building for the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. The evening service was under the auspices of the South Central District of Chicago Bureau of Charities, addresses by Judge R. S. Tuthill, Dr. H. H. Hart, and Mr. E. C. Wentworth.

Changes in Membership

Additions

By Baptism:

Mary Stevens, 2872 Quinn St.
Chas. E. Cook, 3150 Halsted St.
Low Con Sung, 295 Clark St.
Ong Cherk, 970 W. Lake St.
John Gilmore, 3026 Poplar Ave.
Henry E. Marx, 3017 So. Park Ave.

By Letter.

John E. Richards, 3125 Indiana Ave.
Miss Annie Richards, 3125 Indiana Ave.
Carl Tietz, 3215 Rhodes Ave.

Diminutions

By Letter:

Mrs. Sarah Moody, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Titman, Mrs. Lillian G. Butler, Arthur Stocks, Mr. and Mrs. Wilber Wait, Miss Mary E. Wait, Mrs. Laura Wait Ripley.

By Dropping (at own request):

Mrs. Mary F. Barr, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Dow, Wilfred E. Dow, Chas. M. Stewart.

Births

To Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Marsh on Feb. 25th, a girl, Mary Rue Marsh.

Personal and Other Notes

In the absence of President Harper on account of illness, Prof. Shailer Mathews and Senator Francis W. Parker presented the importance and necessity for erecting a new buliding for the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. It was fitting that this new movement should begin in the church which was the birthplace of the old university and also of the Baptist Union Theological Seminary, now the Divinity School. Edward Goodman, C. E. Whitmore and T. E. Donnelley were appointed a committee to cooperate in the matter.

We all deeply sympathize with Miss A. H. E. Stewart in the death of her father, the Rev. Alexander Stewart at Durham, Ont. Mr. Stewart was a Baptist minister. He organized the church at Durham and his influence was large in the regions about that place. He died at the ripe old age of ninety-one. Miss Stewart, it will be remembered, in the spirit of devoted self-sacrifice left her chosen work as our efficient Sunday School missionary and went to minister to her father in his last years.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Baker will be glad to know that these loyal and faithful workers for the Master expect to become members with us again. They will also sympathize with Mrs. Baker in the recent loss of her mother, Mrs. Jeanette Smith.

Mrs. Wm. Wigney is recovering from her painful accident—a fall on the ice which broke her wrist. But with splints upon her arm she has been busily doing all of the work she could, inspiring everyone with her courage and cheerfulness.

All of Miss Ethel Everett's friends will be glad to know that she is quite recovered from her recent illness.

Miss Neta Deibert injured her knee and for sometime has been confined at home. She has our warmest sympathy and best wishes for a speedy recovery.